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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT  
FOR SPECIAL TRAFFIC AND CRASH PREVENTION**

Riverside Police Department has been awarded a \$17,154.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcements and public awareness efforts to prevent traffic related deaths and injuries. Riverside Police Department will use the funding as part of the city's ongoing commitment to keep our roadways safe and improve the quality of life through education, training and enforcement.

*CarFit* is coming to Riverside to offer area senior drivers a free opportunity to check how their cars "fit" them. "Developed by AAA, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) partnership, *CarFit*'s trained professionals take older drivers through a 12-point checklist with their vehicle, recommending minor adjustments that help make their cars "fit" better for comfort and safety. An occupational therapist is also on hand to provide information to seniors on how to maintain and strengthen driving health," said Supervisor Sulyn Jones.

After falling dramatically between 2006 and 2010, the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions saw slight increases in 2011 and 2012. Particularly worrisome are recent increases in pedestrian and motorcycle fatalities and the dangers of distracting technologies. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as drunk and drugged driving and speeding.

"California's roadways are still among the safest in the nation," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "But to meet future mobility, safety, and sustainability objectives, we must create safer roadways for all users. The Riverside Police Department will be using these and other resources to reach the vision we all share – *Toward zero deaths, every 1 counts.*"

Activities that the grant will fund include:

- Educational presentations
- Conduct *CarFit* clinics at each of the Senior Centers in the city of Riverside
- Conduct training to certify new *CarFit* Technicians

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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